

Approved

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

February 13, 2014 Regular Meeting

The February 13, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:05pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center with Josh Collins, Director of Recreation and Parks presiding.

Roll Call

Members present at roll call: Steve Dittner, Ray Garrett, Fay Martin, Dan Robbins, Alan Tatum and Cathy Toth. Members absent: Naomi Asher, Frank Chmielewicz and Bridgette Ellis.

Approval of the January 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for January 9, 2014 meeting was made by Ray Garrett and seconded by Fay Martin. The minutes were approved by a 6-0 vote.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Pat Imperato appeared before the Board representing the Environmental Quality Advisory Board. Pat will attend future Park Board meetings to coordinate activities and communications between the two Boards.

Committee Reports

Dog Park Committee- Bridgette Ellis

No Report.

Bike/Ped Committee

No Report.

Community Funding Opportunities Committee

No Report.

Long-term Strategy/Needs Assessment Committee – Alan Tatum

Alan briefly discussed the upcoming City Budget process and the importance of maintaining current facilities. He has been spending some time reviewing the City's Capital Improvements Program submitted by the Oak Ridge Planning Commission.

Waterfront Redevelopment Master Planning Committee

No Report

Unfinished Business

Elections: Chair/Vice Chair

By a 6-0 vote, the Board approved moving elections to the March 13 meeting.

2014 Park Board Plan

No action taken

Committee Assignments

No action taken

New Business

No new business

Director's Report

Marina Building

The effort to convert the old restaurant into public restrooms and a new home for Adventures Outdoors continues. Public Works has completed its demolition work in the 3,600 sq.ft. building and is preparing to install walls and fixtures. Adventures Outdoors will be handling the renovation in their side of the building.

Adventures Outdoors

The rental agreement for the Marina Building has been approved for the 2014 season. Operations are scheduled to begin in early April and run through October. Adventures Outdoors will expand their inventory and offer extended operating hours.

Friendship Bell

Last November, Recreation and Parks Department staff discovered several areas in the Bell house that showed severe weathering/ checking due to the design of the structure. Several of the 12'x12' support beams appeared to be rotting. As a precaution, the staff installed wooded beams under the bell to support the weight. An in depth evaluation is being prepared by a structural engineer to determine the extent of the damage and what steps need to be taken to correct the problem.

As a result of the discussion on the condition of the Bell and possible repair costs, several Board members asked about the Capital Improvements Program. Fiscal Year CIP funding provides \$500,000 to be shared between the City and the Oak Ridge Schools. Josh gave the Board an overview of the CIP process that included City staff submissions to the Oak Ridge Planning Commission, Planning Commission's recommendation to City Council establishing priorities for the next budget year and final allocation of funds by City Council. In most cases, funding requests exceed available resources.

The Board scheduled a work session from 8:30am to 11am on March 1, 2014 to discuss Recreation and Parks Department operations. The meeting will be in the Craft Room of the Recreation Center.

Dan Robbins discussed several of his retirement activities that related to the Park Board. He expressed concern over the continued problem of pet owners not cleaning up after their pets along the Melton Lake Greenway. Although progress is being made, continued effort to educate the public is needed. Dan also discussed a proposed Breakfast Rotary Club project to promote the "O" Loop as mentioned in the UT MBA report. He also discussed the efforts of the Anderson County Visitors Bureau to promote the cleanup of Norris lake. He hopes to prepare posters for a similar effort in Oak Ridge.

Alan Tatum made a motion to adjourn and Fay Martin provided the second.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.
